

Iraq vows more air attacks

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraqi warplanes flew more than 130 combat missions against Iranian positions in the Gulf war on Monday and Baghdad's air force commander vowed his squadrons will pound Iran in the months ahead, the Iraq News Agency (INA) reported. Air Marshal Hamid Shehab declared that "the Iraqi hammer will relentlessly strike on the heads of the Iranian rulers." The agency quoted him as saying at a news conference "marking the 30th anniversary of Iraq's air force, that his squadrons would destroy "the remaining Iranian enemy troops, completely devastate its economic installations and strike at its vital targets deep inside Iran." Iraq has held superiority in the air since the early days of the conflict. Iraq has an estimated 450 mainly Soviet-built warplanes, about 10 times Iran's air strength. The Iranian air force has been badly crippled by a shortage of spare parts and an international arms embargo. Iraq has for the last year waged a savage bombing campaign against Iranian oil installations, tankers, power stations and factories. The bombing has cut Iran's oil output and devastated Iranian refineries, causing fuel shortages as well as gasoline and electricity rationing.

Volume 12 Number 3455

AMMAN, TUESDAY APRIL 21, 1987, SHABAN 23, 1407

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Times Foundation
جordan Times يومي ملحوظ ناشرة عن المؤسسة الصحافية الاردنية المراجعة

Haj Hassan returns

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan returned to Amman Monday after chairing Executive Committee meetings of Arab Ministers of Social Development in Tunis. Mr. Haj Hassan was welcomed at Queen Alia International Airport by Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Development Mohammad Wardan and several ministry officials.

Khatib leaves for Damascus

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism Mohammad Al Khatib left for Damascus on Monday at the head of a delegation to take part in the sixth pan-Arab cultural conference due to open Tuesday. Upon arrival at Daraa' border point, Mr. Khatib was received by Syrian Minister of Culture Najah Attar and senior Syrian officials in addition to Jordan's Ambassador to Syria Ali Khreis.

Fire in Shmeisani

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 5th floor of a building in Shmeisani caught fire on Monday as a result of an electric contact. Jordan Television reported. The fire engulfed the entire floor, but no casualties were reported, according to Civil Defence men who rushed to the scene to extinguish the fire.

Belgian premier visiting Jordan

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens is on holiday in Jordan, a government source said Monday. He said the visit had no political motive, though Mr. Martens was expected to pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Zaid Rifai. The source said Mr. Martens arrived in Jordan on Friday and would stay for some days.

Pakistani team visits war academy

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting Pakistani delegation from the National Defence College, led by Major-General Javid Naser Monday visited the Royal War Academy, where they were briefed by the academy's commander on its duties and responsibilities. The delegation members toured the academy. They also visited the Royal Command and Staff College and were briefed on the college's duties.

Ramadan working hours announced

AMMAN (Petra) — Office hours in government departments and ministries will be restricted to between 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. during Ramadan, according to a statement issued Sunday by the prime minister's office. The statement said that the new timing applied to offices which run normal office hours but other departments which require extra duty hours would have other arrangements in the light of the nature of their duty. The statement said that fasting would be observed throughout the duration of the holy month which is expected to start on April 28. Liquor stores, bars and nightclubs are closed in Jordan during Ramadan.

INSIDE

- Moscow seen moving closer to Egypt, page 2
- Communications minister outlines TCC plans, page 3
- The PNC meeting and Qalqilya's trees, by Rami G. Khouri, page 4
- Earth's centre is hotter than Sun's surface, page 5
- Mikkola wins Safari Rally, page 6
- Syria turns to barter trade in effort to retain reserves, page 7
- Alfonso's quells military rebellion without bloodshed, page 8

PNC opens 18th session in Algiers

PLO abrogates Feb. 11 accord, pledges to seek 'new framework' for relations with Jordan

By Lamis K. Andoni and Bader Abdul Haq in Algiers

THE PALESTINE National Council (PNC) opened its 18th session here on Monday, marking the end of a bitter almost-four-year-old dispute between the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and two major factions of the PLO.

The PNC was convened after the PLO Executive Committee announced that it was abrogating the Feb. 11, 1985, Jordan-PLO agreement.

The PNC session was opened with a keynote address by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat who called for an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. All PLO factions "now stand together, united until the final liberation of Palestine," Mr. Arafat told the audience at the opening session which included two of his hitherto opponents — George Habash who leads the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and Nayef Hawatmeh, head of the Demo-

spices with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council as well as all other "interested parties," including the PLO on an equal footing with all other parties.

The PLO chairman paid special thanks to Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi for their endeavours in the drive for PLO团结 that culminated in Monday's PNC meeting.

Mr. Benjedid attended the opening session of the PNC, but Colonel Qadhafi, who was expected to attend, was not present.

Reports said "security reasons" were behind the Libyan leader's absence.

Mr. Arafat received a standing ovation when he entered the conference hall hand-in-hand with Mr. Benjedid.

Mr. Arafat greeted "all the friends of the Palestinian revolution, led by the Soviet Union," and renewed an appeal to Iran and Iraq to end their six-and-a-half-year-old war and "turn their guns against Israel for the liberation of

Palestine."

Six factions of the PLO — Fatah, the PFLP, the DFLP, the Arab Liberation Front (ALF), the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) and the Palestinian Communist Party — attended the meeting. The Abu Nidal group, which made a last-minute bid to attend, was not represented in the gathering.

A statement issued by the group said it had decided to boycott the meeting because "of the failure of all efforts to curb the unlimited prerogatives" of the PLO chairman, but sources close to the PLO leadership said other factions agreed in pre-conference negotiations not to allow the renegade faction, which has a long history of extremist attacks in the Middle East and elsewhere, to attend the meeting.

In a press conference earlier, Dr. Habash also announced the dismantling of the Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF), which grouped the PFLP, the Palestinian Communist Party, Al

(Continued on page 3)

Palestinians expect more Israeli raids after first cross-border attack in years

SIDON (Agencies) — Palestinians in South Lebanon's two main refugee camps braced Monday for more Israeli reprisal attacks after the first PLO operation inside northern Israel for several years.

Witnesses quoted by Reuter said Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) fighters with anti-aircraft weapons spread out into orange groves around the big 'Ain Al-Hilweh camp near Sidon and were on alert in the Rashidiyah camp near Tyre.

Israeli helicopter gunships raided Rashidiyah on Sunday in Israel's first response to the infiltration. One woman was killed and five people injured, reports said.

In Sidon, PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat's mainstream Fatah group distributed photographs of three men whom it said crossed the border into Israel early Sunday.

The Israeli army said they were killed in a gunbattle with Israeli troops on the edge of an apple orchard near an isolated collection

farm. Two Israeli soldiers were also killed, it said.

Fatah said in a statement

accompanying the photographs: "The success of this operation confirms the failure of all security measures which the Zionist entity claims to have established in the face of our guerrillas."

Palestinian sources said it was the PLO's first overland infiltration into Israel from South Lebanon for years and the first Palestinian attack on Israel since an attempted sea-borne strike on Nahariyah in July last year ended with four attackers and two Israeli soldiers dead.

The photographs showed three guerrillas holding guns and lighting cigarettes for each other. The statement named them as Ahmad Abdallah, 25, born in Tripoli, north Lebanon, Bilal Amer, 19, born in Damascus, and Ibrahim Ayoub, 18, born in Beirut.

The Israeli army said the raid on Rashidiyah hit a house used for planning attacks on Israel. A Palestinian source in Beirut said the attack missed military targets.

British police defuse sixth letter bomb in one week

LONDON (R) — A letter bomb was made safe at the home of a senior British civil servant on Monday, the sixth sent to government officials in the past few weeks, police said.

The Irish Republican Army's (IRA) political wing, campaigning for an end to British rule in Northern Ireland, claimed it sent the previous five.

Explosives experts defused the device early Monday at the home of Stephen Sherbourne, political secretary to the prime minister. He found the bomb on returning to his London flat after a few days away.

Police said the package was identical to five others discovered last week, and had been stamped with the words "University of Belfast, students union."

Last Thursday, letter bombs were sent to Sir Robert Andrew, permanent under-secretary at the Northern Ireland Office, and David Hobson, a former adviser at the prime minister's policy unit.

Both bombs were intercepted and made safe by experts.

The previous day, experts defused bombs addressed to Bernard Ingham, the prime minister's press secretary, and two other senior civil servants.

Reagan to brief Congress on arms control prospects

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan, fresh from a week-long stay at his mountaintop ranch, was due in Washington on Monday, where he was expected to brief congressional leaders on prospects for what he called an "historic first" in arms control.

For Mr. Reagan, the focus of attention on a potential accord with Moscow to eliminate medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe and a possible summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is a welcome diversion from the scandal over the Soviet Union "at face value" in arms control.

His statements seemed to concur with Secretary of State George Shultz's comment on return from his Moscow talks that the United States should take the Soviet Union "at face value" in arms control.

The scandal is now in a hull but will return to the front pages soon with the opening of congressional hearings.

Jim Wright, democratic leader of the House of Representatives, on Sunday matched Mr. Reagan's rhetoric when he called for a "historic first" in arms control.

Mr. Reagan has been making a strong pitch for an intermediate nuclear forces (INF) accord as a step towards his ultimate goal of scrapping all ballistic missiles.

"An actual reduction in the number of nuclear weapons would be an historic first — an accomplishment both sides could build upon for further progress," he said over the weekend.

Assistant Defence Secretary Richard Perle, a noted administration hardliner in Moscow with Mr. Shultz last week, expressed caution.

2 hurt in ambush on British army vehicle in Cyprus

NICOSIA (Agencies) — unidentified gunmen ambushed a British army Land Rover on a highway in southern Cyprus on Monday, wounding the driver and a teenage girl passenger, British army spokesman John Rogers reported.

The attack was the first against British military personnel since an assault on the sprawling Akrotiri air force base on the south coast of the Mediterranean island on Aug. 2 with mortars, rockets and machineguns. The wives of two servicemen were wounded.

Major Rogers said the gunmen opened fire with "automatic weapons from a car on the British army vehicle" on the main highway between the British army base and Akrotiri.

Reporters were barred from entering Rashidiyah by anti-PLO

Shiite Amal militia fighters who have ringed the camp for nearly seven months.

Women and children are allowed out to buy food for the camp's estimated 22,000 residents. About 80,000 refugees live in 'Ain Al-Hilweh, which is not under siege.

In spite of measures taken by Amal to besiege our people in South Lebanon and (Antoine) Labi's security zone, the will to fight was stronger than all the challenges," Fatah said.

The Israeli army said the raid on Rashidiyah hit a house used for planning attacks on Israel. A Palestinian source in Beirut said the attack missed military targets.

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REGENT RECEIVES ENVOY: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday received the visiting Korean Minister

for National Unity Moon-Do Huh, who is also the personal envoy of the South Korean President Chun Do Hwan. Mr. Huh delivered a message

Israeli troops shoot and wound Palestinian boy in Khan Yunis

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and wounded a Palestinian boy in the occupied Gaza Strip on Monday after protesters attacked an Israeli army vehicle with two firebombs, the Israeli army said.

The clash occurred in the town of Khan Yunis on Sunday night, when soldiers also closed the Gaza Islamic University for seven days following protests in which nine students were reported hospitalized after being clubbed by Israeli troops.

The campus has about 5,000 students.

Anti-occupation protests in the occupied territories have persisted since April 11 when an Israeli settler died in a firebomb attack, and a Palestinian student was shot dead by an Israeli soldier two days later.

Other violent protests were reported later Monday in the occupied territories, but none involved any injuries, Israel radio said.

The radio said Palestinian protesters burned tyres in the road in the West Bank's largest city of Nablus and that Israeli vehicles were stoned by demonstrators near the West Bank city of Hebron.

Palestinian news reports identified the wounded Palestinian in Khan Yunis as Mohammad Al Sarjani, 18.

The Israeli army said soldiers opened fire at a group of protesters after the firebombs were thrown at soldiers, causing no injuries or damage.

The attack was the first against British military personnel since an assault on the sprawling Akrotiri air force base on the south coast of the Mediterranean island on Aug. 2 with mortars, rockets and machineguns. The wives of two servicemen were wounded.

Major Rogers said the gunmen opened up with "automatic weapons from a car on the British army vehicle" on the main highway between the British army base and Akrotiri.

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Moscow moves closer to Egypt by rescheduling military debt

CAIRO (R) — Moscow has moved closer to Egypt, its one-time ally, by rescheduling \$3 billion of military debt at a time when Cairo is in urgent need of debt relief, diplomats said Monday.

The rescheduling deal and a new trade protocol were negotiated after extensive talks in Cairo and Moscow but the terms of the agreement, concluded in Moscow last month, have not been released officially either in Moscow or Cairo.

Egyptian Trade Minister Yasser Mustapha said on his return from Moscow that the success of his talks would lead to an increase in trade between the two countries.

He said financial problems with the Soviet Union had been satisfactorily resolved and all problems overcome. He did not elaborate.

But the semi-official Cairo press has released some details of the deal which indicate a generous package. It included scrap-

ping interest on the military debt and rescheduling a \$70-million civilian debt over 25 years at a reduced interest rate and a six-year grace period.

"The Russians played their part with considerable skill and have done quite well," said one Western diplomat. "We've seen a marked turn in Soviet-Egyptian relations."

Soviet Ambassador Gennady Zhuravlyov said last week that Moscow would resume the supply of military spare parts to Egypt.

The late President Anwar Sadat ended more than 25 years of almost total reliance on Moscow for political and military support when he expelled thousands of Soviet military advisers from Egypt in 1972.

He turned to the United States

for military supplies in the mid-1970s and Washington now pumps more than \$2 billion in military and economic aid into Egypt.

But, while Washington remains Cairo's main superpower ally, ties have been strained over \$4.5 billion military debt for which Cairo wants better rescheduling terms.

Egypt is suffering from a shortage of hard currency earnings because of depressed oil sales, a loss of tourism revenue and lower remittances from Egyptians abroad.

It is close to reaching a final accord on standby credits from the International Monetary Fund so that it can open negotiations on rescheduling its \$38.6-billion foreign debt.

The United States offered a partial reprieve on military debts last December by reducing interest to 7.5 per cent from an average 12 per cent. But President Hosni Mubarak said he was not satisfied and ordered his gov-

ernment to renegotiate.

The new accord with the Soviet Union, the diplomats note, came at a time when the talks between Egypt and the United States over the military debt problem had not made any headway.

"The Russians knew they were not going to get paid anyway, so why not waive interest and take benefit while embarrassing Uncle Sam at the same time," the diplomat said.

Moscow renegotiated the trade protocol at a new exchange rate for trade transactions between the two nations, a subject of protracted discussions between them.

The three-year trade protocol will raise the volume of trade from \$900 million to \$1.5 billion a year, the Cairo newspaper Al Ahram said.

Quoting an official source, it said Moscow had agreed that the trade balance would be in Egypt's favour, thus allowing Cairo to use part of the surplus to repay its debt.

Kremlin rules out ties with Israel

KUWAIT (R) — Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky has ruled out a resumption of diplomatic ties with Israel until it gave up Arab lands taken in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and agreed to international peace talks.

Mr. Petrovsky, addressing a news conference before he left the Kuwait after a four-day tour, said he believed circumstances were now right for an international Middle East peace conference.

The Soviet envoy is scheduled to visit also the United Arab Emirates, Iraq and Oman, in a round-trip of all Gulf Arab states with which the Kremlin has diplomatic ties.

"Our relationship with Israel will not resume as long as the reasons for severance prevail," he declared Sunday.

"Our relationship will not resume until Israel announces its withdrawal from all occupied

Arab countries, and announces its agreement to an international peace conference," he added.

Moscow has been pushing for an international conference under U.N. auspices to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, to be attended by the Security Council permanent members and all parties directly involved.

Mr. Petrovsky had been asked to comment on a planned visit to Israel by a Soviet consular mission which he said was to have reviewed cases of Soviet citizenship and problems over real estate ownership, among other things.

Because Israel had used the trip for propaganda, he said, "we have decided to cancel the visit."

He reaffirmed remarks on his arrival here that the Kremlin had "some ideas" on ways to stop the 6½-year-old Iran-Iraq war, only miles away from Kuwait.

Libya to free Briton sentenced for spying

LONDON (AP) — A British engineer serving a 12-year sentence for alleged bribery and industrial espionage in Libya will be released shortly, the Foreign Office said.

The Libyan News Agency JANA reported earlier Sunday that Robert Maxwell, a 38-year-old Scot, admitted he was spying against Libya.

The Foreign Office had no comment on the spying allegation but said the British government was "very pleased" by the confirmation it received from Libyan authorities that Maxwell will be freed.

Maxwell told a news conference in the Libyan capital Saturday night that he was doing "both

a technical job and a spying job in Libya and was getting paid two salaries." Libya's official JANA news agency said in a report, monitored in London.

He was arrested in 1980 while working for an Italian company in the Libyan port city of Benghazi.

JANA reported Saturday that Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qaddafi had "intervened for the release" of Maxwell after talks with British lawmaker Ron Brown, who was in Tripoli last week.

The Foreign Office said Hugh Dunnachie, head of the British interests section at the Italian embassy in Tripoli, had received confirmation from Tripoli that Maxwell will be freed when the

Department of Justice completes its normal procedures in such cases."

Western diplomats contacted by the Association Press in Tripoli confirmed that Maxwell had been moved from prison.

In an interview on Libyan television, shown on Britain's Independent Television show TV-AM, Maxwell said he had not been told officially of his impending release.

On receiving apparent reassurance from the interviewer, the smartly dressed engineer, looking fit and healthy, smiled broadly and said: "It's a fantastic feeling. I am very happy and thank everyone who has done anything to help in this."

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On receiving apparent reassurance from the interviewer, the smartly dressed engineer,

PSD meeting discusses bus accident tragedies

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Public Security Department Lieutenant General Abdul Hadi Al Majali Monday presided over a meeting to discuss means of preventing road accidents which claim the lives of innocent civilians and students. Lt.-Gen. Majali called for exerting every possible efforts to enforce traffic regulations and for the examination of all buses hired for school trips before issuing permits.

Lt.-Gen. Majali also called for a survey on road accidents to

analyse their causes and to take action to avoid future tragedies.

The PSD director also called for closer controls over buses used for trips to make sure they adhere to speed limits and abide by traffic rules.

Monday's meeting was called after the occurrence of many road accidents, the last of which took place last week when a bus on a school trip overturned in Al Muqib area, killing 14 school students and teachers.

W. Bank teachers to receive extra allowances this month

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government will start paying extra allowances to teachers and education officials in the occupied Arab territory as of the middle of the coming month, according to a report carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The agency said that a committee comprising officials from the Ministries of Education and Occupied Territories Affairs will complete procedures to determine the amounts to be paid to employees within the coming 10 days.

Personal effects of Jordanian expatriates exempt from duty

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Customs Department Adel Al Qudah has taken a decision under which the personal effects, used furniture and household appliances of Jordanians working abroad will be exempted from customs duties upon the expatriate's return to Jordan.

The decision, which was communicated to the Omani border point with Saudi Arabia, is in line with the government's policy aimed at providing facilities to Jordanian expatriates.

According to the decision, all personal effects and used household appliances and furniture will be allowed into the country duty free, provided that they are to be for personal use and not for commercial purposes. Benefi-

caries can benefit from the exemption facility once only, according to the decision.

The decision named the following items as included in the exemption: one refrigerator, one washing machine, one television set, one gas oven, one electric sweeper, one tape recorder, fan and rugs. The decision excluded videos, air-conditioning units, carpets and crystal lamps.

To be eligible for the exemption, a Jordanian working abroad should produce a certificate to the effect that his contract abroad has expired and a certificate that his children, if any, have been accepted at Jordanian schools, a lease contract and a contract with any institution in Jordan.

Symposium suggests higher duties on cigarettes as part of anti-smoking drive

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in a symposium on the dangers of smoking on public health Monday recommended that taxes and duties on locally-produced and imported cigarettes be increased in a drive to encourage people to give up smoking.

The symposium, organised by the Jordanian national anti-smoking society in cooperation with the Ministry of Health's health education department, was held to explain the detrimental effects of smoking on public health.

Participants recommended a number of actions designed to protect citizens from the dangers of smoking. One of the recommendations called for undertaking studies and researches on the harmful effects of smoking. They stressed the right of every non-smoker to protection from pollution caused by smoking and recommended that smoking be forbidden in public places, offices and means of transport. One further recommendation was that

school curricula include facts on the detrimental effects of smoking on health.

They also recommended that promotional advertisements for cigarettes be stopped.

At the end of the meeting, participants formed a special committee to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations.

The Health Ministry is exerting every possible effort to combat smoking because of its danger to society and its negative effects on general public health and the national economy. Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh said here Monday.

The Health Ministry has turned down all requests and offers from various advertising agencies and companies to put up signs which promote the sale of cigarettes and the press and other media have been cooperative with the Health Ministry by refraining from publicising any cigarette commercials, the health minister said.

Muasher opens exhibition of 23 local chemical industries

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher, who is also honorary president of the Jordanian Chemists' Association, Monday inaugurated an exhibition of Jordanian chemical industries and scientific equipment organised by the association in cooperation with the Housing Bank.

The exhibition, which will run for ten days, includes various chemical products produced by 23 Jordanian chemical industries companies. The exhibition was

held within the association's celebrations of Arab Chemists Day which falls on April 24.

The exhibition coincides with the ninth meeting of the higher council of the Arab Chemists Federation which is due to open at the Amman Plaza Hotel today. Minister of Higher Education Nasseruddine Al Assad will patronise the three-day meeting which is to discuss a number of subjects of interest to Arab chemists, including the organisation of an Arab chemists conference.

Donors build new school for refugee children in Baqaa

AMMAN (J.T.) — A new United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) school was inaugurated Monday at Baqaa refugee camp in Jordan, according to a press release from the agency.

The school building, which comprises 22 classrooms, two administrative rooms, one multi-purpose room, one library and one laboratory, was donated by Sheikhs Ibrahim and Mohammad Al Zaben, two Saudi Arabian businessmen originally from Palestine.

The construction costs amounted to \$500,000. The two-shift school accommodates 2,136 pupils in the elementary and preparatory cycles and a teaching staff

of 47 in three storeys of a total area of 2,700 square metres constructed on 3,500 square metres of land.

The opening ceremony was

attended by Sheik Mohammad Al Zaben, senior agency and government officials, and a crowd of guests, including refugee representatives from Baqaa camp which has a population of 68,000 refugees and displaced persons.

Addressing the audience, Mr. E. J. Saaf, director of UNRWA affairs in Jordan, paid tribute to the donors for this second donation of theirs — the first being a nearby school for boys which was opened in January 1986 and which cost \$400,000, the release said.



CONDOLENCES: His Royal Highness Prince Hussein, who was laid to rest on Sunday at the Mohammadi, the personal representative of His Royal Highness, Prime Minister Zaid Al Khatib, Majesty King Hussein, and His Royal Highness Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmed and Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday accept Al Lawzi, Cabinet members, senior officials and condolences over the death of the late Princess high ranking army officers attended the funeral Munira, daughter of the late King Abdullah Ibn Al (Petra photo)

Arab women continue conference with review of AWF's activities, studies

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-day conference of the Arab Women's Federation (AWF) continued in Amman on Monday and reviewed a general report on the federation's activities over the past year, and the AWF's financial situation.

According to Petra, the delay in

paying the allowance was due to a delay in preparing lists of the names of the teachers and employees who will benefit from the government measure.

A decision to pay the allowances was taken by the government earlier this year in view of the difficult economic conditions in the Israeli-held Arab territory.

The Arab World ought to take

practical steps and concert all

efforts for the sake of presenting

a bright image of Arab women to

various world societies, the

Queen said in her address.

She said that Arab women continu-

ally find themselves confronting

challenges and shouldering

responsibilities in the course of

carrying out their duty as partners

in national development and in

the general effort to defend our

aggression on the Arab Nation.

Another speaker was Mrs. Manal Yousif from the AWF who

outlined the subjects to be taken

up by the conference and the

programmes which will be carried

out by the AWF. Delegates to the

conference also voiced the

AWF's appreciation and support

for Palestinian, Iraqi and

Lebanese women who share with

Arab men the responsibility of

defending their homeland and

who continue to endure the nega-

tive effects of war and aggression.

Engineers discuss Arab construction sector

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Second Arab Construction Engineering Conference Monday continued its discussions at the University of Jordan under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

In an inaugural address delivered to the conference on Sunday by Royal Scientific Society (RSS) President Jawad Al Anan on his behalf, Prince Hassan said that construction and building have secured a substantial portion of the Arab nation's wealth and therefore this sector should be made to reflect the nation's development and help achieve its aspirations and objectives.

Princess Basma paid tribute to

the Industrial Development Fund (IDB) for its contribution to

Princess Basma opens Ma'an community centre

MA'AN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAJSWF), Monday stressed the importance of social services and expressed keen interest in upgrading such services.

In her inaugural speech opening the new premises of the Ma'an-based Princess Basma Social Services Centre, Princess Basma highlighted the importance of social services and voluntary work and called for exerting further efforts towards these activities because they contribute to improving community-based services, which Princess Basma continued, are necessary for the social development and help achieve its

aspirations and objectives.

Princess Basma then presented

120 girls, who graduated from the

various trades and courses

offered by the centre, with their

diplomas and then toured the

various sections of the centre.

The centre was established by

the Jordanian Save the Children Fund in cooperation with the QAJSWF and was supported and financed by the IDB. The centre

includes a kindergarten, a child-

ren's club, library, computer

and electrical workshop.

front all unilateral solutions and

to foil the "alternate homeland"

theory. During the joint (Jordan-PLO) march, disputes emerged in

explaining and understanding

some of the agreement's concepts

and their implementation. What

added more (to the disputes) were pressures exerted by the United States and other parties, eventually leading Jordan to suspend political coordination with the PLO and take certain other measures which effectively froze the agreement and created an imbalance in the (Jordan-PLO) relationship.

In a statement issued on Monday, the PLO Executive Committee said it had decided to abrogate the Feb. 11 accord with Jordan and that it would seek a new framework for relations with Jordan, and other Arab countries in the joint struggle to liberate the occupied territories.

Following is the text of the committee statement:

The PLO and the Jordanian government on Feb. 11, 1985, signed an agreement for joint efforts to achieve the common aspirations of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples in accordance with Arab and Islamic resolutions contained in the 1982 Fez Arab summit resolution and (this agreement) came after the work of the seven-member Arab committee (entrusted by the Fez summit) came to an end as a mechanism to implement (the Fez resolution).

The Executive Committee of the PLO, from its keenness on maintaining the proper means to implement PNC resolutions which particularly tackled the brotherly relations between Jordanians and Palestinians, in light of its practical experiences, (find that) the agreement has become a stumbling block in further developing these relations since the accord has no physical existence and decide to declare the agreement as null and void.

At the same time the PLO Executive Committee, in the context of its constant policy, will seek to find a new framework for joint efforts with Jordan and other Arab countries to achieve the goals of the joint struggle within the context of a united Arab stand and Arab solidarity to liberate the occupied Arab and Palestinian land and to build Arab unity taking into consideration Arab summit resolutions endowing the (proposal) for an international conference to be

attended by the Soviet Union,

the United States and other members

of the United Nations Security Council and all parties involved in the Middle East conflict, including the PLO on an equal

footing with all other parties under U.N. auspices and supervision.

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TCC working on new accounting system within first stage of privatisation, Husseini says

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — The government-owned Telecommunications Corporation (TCC), currently in the initial stages of privatisation, expects to complete its new financial and accounting system by April 1988, according to Communications Minister Muhibeddine Al Husseini.

With a new accounting order,

the TCC will have completed the first phase of a three-part programme involving the change of the organisation's status from a government-run institution into a public-shareholding company.

The TCC "is working on a financial structure," under which its present government accounting method would be transformed into commercial notes and balance sheets as the first step towards changing the corporation into a property market-oriented commercial entity," Mr. Husseini said.

The minister, who is also chairman of the TCC board, made these remarks during the Monday press circle, a weekly event organised by Dr. Mousa Al Keilani, the director of the Press and Publications Department.

The Cabinet last year in principle endorsed the transformation

of the TCC into a shareholding company, with the government holding all the shares. At a later stage, it is to be decided whether or not private sector participation would be sought.

The TCC's legal consultants are presently studying the laws and regulations of other Arab countries whose telecommunications organisations underwent a similar transformation in order to draft a new commercial law covering all administrative and financial aspects of the company, to be named "the Telecommunications Company of Jordan."

Once the company's draft law has been completed, the law will be debated in Parliament before a Royal Decree for its enactment is issued.

Stage three of the process will entail evaluating TCC's assets based on a profit to capital ratio to determine the value of each share and the number of

shares to be divided amongst the public sector.

Dr. Yousef Atallah, the centre's supervisor, thanked Princess Basma for inaugurating the centre and reviewed the activities it provides to the local community.

Princess Basma then presented

120 girls, who graduated from the

various trades and courses

offered by the centre, with their

diplomas and then toured the

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Monday

Al Ra'i: Arab resistance continues

ISRAELI forces on Sunday shelled 14 Lebanese villages in retaliation for resistance activity within the occupied Arab territory. This new aggression on Lebanon, coming in the wake of escalating attacks on Arab people and Arab property in the Syrian Golan Heights and the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, points to one clear fact: That the Arab resistance remains the major source of danger to the Jewish state. These recurrent attacks on the Arabs and repression that Israel has been practising on the Arab inhabitants over the years, could not and will not help to subdue the indigenous population nor can it ever stifle the spirit of struggle for freedom. All Israeli troops and war machinery could not stop the Arabs from carrying on the resistance in all areas occupied by the Israeli forces since 1967. The shelling of 14 Lebanese villages therefore reflects the state of alarm and fear within the Israeli society and the Israeli forces, and manifests the barbaric nature of the Zionists who have been launching one wave of terror after the other. The Israelis have been closing Arab schools and universities, evicting Arab inhabitants from their homeland and destroying Arab-owned property in a bid to force the Arab people to abandon their homes, but the indigenous population have been confronting all these measures with bravery, and increased resistance, and have been struggling to thwart all enemy plans. The resistance in the occupied Arab territory has caused the Israelis to yearn for security and peace they have failed to achieve since their occupation of Arab land.

Al Dustour: PLO unity is essential

THE Palestine National Council opens a meeting in Algiers Monday amidst hopes that the various Palestinian factions will finally arrive at a formula for uniting their forces. Unity among the factions has become essential if the Palestinian resistance movement is to overcome obstacles and pursue the struggle for liberating occupied Arab territory. There is no doubt that any success in unifying the stands and actions of various Palestinian groups will ensure the success of the Algiers meeting which will be a major gain for the Arab World at large. Any divisions within the Palestinian resistance movement can prolong the divisions within the Arab Nation and dissipate efforts by Arab countries. Such divisions have in the past thwarted efforts for convening an Arab summit meeting and rendered the Arab countries weak and incapable of standing up to the challenges and threats. Therefore, Arab masses attach great hope on the council meeting in Algiers and look forward to constructive resolutions that would enhance the Palestinian movement's cooperation with Arab states especially those that are more concerned with the Palestine problem. We realise that the Algiers meeting is seeking unity within the Palestinian movement, but we also hope that this meeting will adopt more realistic strategies acceptable to the Arab countries and the international community at large.

Sawt Al Shaab: PNC session is crucial

THE Palestine National Council (PNC) is meeting in Algiers today in its 18th session, described by many as crucial for Palestinian action. The people of Palestine look to this meeting as one designed to fuse unity among various groups and to unite the resistance factions in the face of continued Israeli repression, and with a view to helping end the ordeal of the Arab people under Israeli occupation. Palestinians inside or outside the occupied territories look with hope to the outcome of the Algiers meeting and they all pray to God that the unity of the Palestinian groups will help the struggle for ending Israel's occupation and not achieve unity at the expense of the Arab people still suffering under Israeli rule. We do not wish to see the Palestinian movement in continuous disarray, nor do we wish to see the Palestinian people continuing to suffer at the hands of the Israeli troops and settlers. We hope that the Algiers meeting will pave the way for the Palestinians to achieve peace and justice and exploit the present moment in which we witness unanimous support and backing from the international community for a durable solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The PNC is called on to translate the aspirations of the Palestinian people into practice and to give more consideration to the future of the Palestinian land and its people.

Sunday's

Al Ra'i: Israeli repression

NOW that the Israeli authorities have decided to close Bethlehem and Birzeit universities at least 12,000 students will remain without classes for some time. The pretext for closing these educational institutions together with the Al Najah college and the Gaza University is that there were fears that students might launch anti-Israeli protests and cause disturbance. The Israeli move followed an earlier decision to build cement walls around refugee camps in the occupied territory in a bid to stifle the spirit of resistance among the Arabs. Twenty years of occupation have not been able to quell the struggle of the Palestinians for liberation and freedom, and the new Israeli measures provide further proof that the Israelis have failed to subdue the Palestinians and kill their steadfastness and resistance spirit. The more cruel Israel becomes the more hardened will be Arab determination for resistance and for thwarting enemy plans. The closure of the universities and the detention of Arab citizens and the demolition of homes can never end the resistance in the occupied land, and the Palestinians will no doubt continue their drive to liberate their homeland.

Al Dustour: Tindemans ends tour

BELGIAN Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans has just completed a tour of Arab capitals on behalf of the European Community nations; and his move represented one more step towards achieving peace and justice in the Middle East. The 12-member community issued a declaration in Brussels last February endorsing the idea of an international conference to bring about peace to the Middle East, but the community has a long way to go to help convene this conference and many obstacles to remove before the aspired objective can be achieved. Mr. Tindemans has heard Arab views which appreciated the European Community's stand and also heard Arab leaders urging Europe to take practical steps to end Israel's occupation of Arab land. We will not await Europe's moves to end this conflict and lead the Arabs and the Israelis to peace. We hope that the European Community will translate the Brussels declaration into practice, and convene the long-awaited conference that would help bring us peace.

The View From Second Circle

The PNC and Qalqilya's trees

By Rami G. Khouri

AFTER the petrol bomb attack that killed a Jewish settler near Qalqilya village last week, there was a chorus of indignation from within Israeli society that demanded two rather interesting things: a) that more Jewish settlers be moved into the West Bank, and b) that the orange trees that line some of the roads be cut down, to make the roads more secure for Jewish settlers. How intriguing, I thought to myself, and how simple: Just cut down all the trees, and there won't be any place for a Palestinian to hide, and to use as a shelter from which to hurl petrol bombs at Israelis who have taken his land.

But then I thought: hasn't this been tried before around here? Our land is very old, and our people's attachment to it is ancient. How many others have come to Palestine or Jordan in the past several thousand years, implanted themselves as rulers by the force of arms, and tried to protect themselves from the native population by actions that were the functional equivalent of cutting down all the trees along the sides of the roads?

Our occupiers have been numerous, but all finally left the area. The Persians and Babylonians were our rulers once, as were the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans. The Byzantine empire and the Ottomans also controlled our lands in centuries past, as did the Crusaders for about 200 years, but they left also. They may not have cut down all the roadside trees, as the Israelis wish to do today, but they also had to pay attention to securing their safety along the main communications routes. The ancient roads and caravan routes in Jordan and Palestine are crowded with adjacent forts, watchtowers, castles and lookout posts — all of which were designed mainly to patrol the roads and keep the land safe for the ruling political power of the day. It is no surprise that the Israelis should have the same concern in Palestine today. But will they succeed any more than did their predecessors in the region, who also sought to stamp their control on the indigenous populations by the age-old combination of the strength of force and the appeal of material gain if one remains quiet and docile. Whatever the Persians, Babylonians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Crusaders and Ottomans did to handle the people of Qalqilya, it did not work. The people of Qalqilya, and all of Palestine, are still making trouble for those who would occupy them, and deny them a

The continuing violent resistance in Palestine comes just as the

Palestine National Council is meeting in Algiers, and the juxtaposition of the two events is worth assessing. The acts of the Palestinians on the land are ancient, universal acts of political self-expression, national self-defence and reflexive resistance. Like the orange trees, they spring forth from the land naturally, organically, when the ingredients are all in place.

But the Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers is not such an ancient tradition. Independent, genuine Palestinian political leaderships are not very evident in the history of the area. This is probably why the PLO has had its ups and downs during the past two decades, sometimes taking centre stage in the Arab World, sometimes quietly licking its wounds on the sidelines, usually under the protection of some willing Arab state. It is because the PLO represents the Palestinian will to be free, sovereign, self-determining and secure within one's own country that it has often placed a higher imperative on its political status as an organisation than it has on achieving tangible diplomatic progress through a process of compromise.

I am at once sad and proud to see the PLO going through the motions of yet another reconciliation, national dialogue and "historic" PNC meeting that brings all the Palestinian factions together again. I am sad because the spectacle becomes less edifying every time it is performed, for it seems to lose just a little bit of relevance with every performance. But I am proud because the PLO and its component parts refuse either to fade away into insignificance, or unilaterally bow to the demands of those who would presume to advise it.

The PLO has never had it easy. It has always had to struggle against formidable foes in the Israeli-American camp, and simultaneously has had to work hard to maintain its independence from Arab parties. It is worth nothing, this time around, that the PLO is still independent, still meeting, still stressing national dialogue and unity, still emphasising its willingness to negotiate peace at an international conference and still — as it was in Amman in 1984 during the previous PNC — clinging to the principle of the independence of decision-making tighter than a baby monkey clings to its mother's shoulder. The PLO elicits great pride among Palestinians and other Arabs precisely because it is seen to be committed to a principle of national rights for the Palestinian people that is sacred, if still far from being translated into reality. The PLO will not liberate Palestine by force of arms. But then, the Israelis will not pacify the Palestinians by cutting down their trees, either.

So we have something of a draw in the ancient land of Palestine, land of many conquerors and perpetual Palestinian/Arab resistance. But the draw is considerably more comfortable for the Israelis — who have a state — than it is for the Palestinians, who just finished watching another national nightmare in their folk being starved in refugee camps in Beirut, and their women being shot to death one by one as they tried to leave the camps to buy food for their families.

Given this reality, what is the full meaning of Palestinian factions who refuse to meet one another unless certain "political" conditions are met beforehand, or agreements abrogated, or contacts with Arab states terminated? Is this a graduate seminar in political theory, or is this the destiny of a people that is closer to seeing its national rights recognised globally than ever before in its history, and that is also being killed in ever greater numbers by both Israeli and Arab parties because of the lack of a political settlement?

Will we — Palestinians and Arabs — look to history as a source of strength that sustains us, that reminds us that we have been occupied many times before by much stronger foes, but have always achieved freedom in the end? Or will we use history as moral camouflage, to hide our weaknesses and sanctify our failures?

There is an urgent need for the PNC and Qalqilya to meet, for history and politics to wed, and to produce an offspring named diplomacy, who in turn could achieve freedom and sovereignty. A spirit of enduring popular resistance and a commitment to a national political leadership are both vital elements in the Palestinian struggle. They both exist today, and both attest to the reality and durability of the Palestinian identity. But that's what we were saying in the early seventies, a decade and a half ago, and we seem to be waving the same flag again today. And the thousands who have died in the meantime — do we attribute them to the fact that ours is a historical struggle of greater dimensions than a single generation, a single person or a single political faction?

I am continuously proud of the PLO, and its resilience and its durability. I am proud of the people of Qalqilya, who honour freedom and fight to achieve it. But I am not proud to be stuck in a draw with the Israelis, at a time when virtually the entire world accepts my right to self-determination, sovereignty and security.

Will the PNC meeting builds on unity, instead of only achieving it.

Refugee relief committee decries intolerance of West

By Peter James Spielmann
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — In 1986, as the United States celebrated the centenary of the statue of liberty and its pledge of shelter for oppressed people, Congress defeated a bill that would have granted asylum to Central Americans fleeing civil strife in the Philippines, Haiti and Uganda in 1986 may reverse the tide of people fleeing those nations.

"Particularly in the case of Uganda, refugees are already returning in significant numbers," it said.

Pirate attacks on Vietnamese boat people continued to decline, although the reasons were un-

clear. Refugees are learning to avoid pirates, but Thailand is also making progress in anti-piracy efforts, the Committee said.

In most nations, however, the Committee sees governments turning their backs to those trying to flee poverty and political brutality.

Vietnam and the United States allowed the orderly departure programme to collapse last year. Vietnam also refuses to release re-education camp prisoners, some detained for 12 years, or end its occupation of Kampuchea.

Torture is widespread but often overlooked because victims suppress the memory of it and are reluctant to discuss their experiences.

A 1984 survey of 98 troubled

refugees from South East Asia who were clients of a social adjustment project in St. Paul, Minnesota found that 61 per cent said they had been tortured in the previous decade, the Committee noted.

The rehabilitation centre for torture victims in Copenhagen has a long waiting list after being swamped by the number of torture victims requiring treatment from among the several thousand refugees arriving in Denmark yearly.

Political persecution is unabated, but governments seem less willing to shelter the victims.

Amnesty International lobbied in the United States for passage of a bill that would have extended safe haven in the United States to Salvadorans fearing political retribution in their own country, where civilians are caught between right-wing death squads and leftist guerrillas. Congress defeated the bill in 1985 and 1986.

Western Europe, "spawned in part by growing militant racism and xenophobia, severely curtailed asylum, particularly for those from the Third World," the Committee said.

The U.N. High Commissioner for refugees, Jean-Pierre Hocke, said last year that European gov-

America again led the world in contributions to refugee aid and resettlement agencies, with 231.1 million dollars, the study said.

— The Soviet Union continues to curtail emigration. However, since the report was compiled, emigration has increased, and Soviet officials say they are reviewing the cases of more Jews who wish to emigrate.

— South Africa's apartheid policy of racial segregation has led to the creation of impoverished black homelands, squatter camps, all dependent on the goodwill of neighbouring white areas.

Thousands of Mozambican refugees also infiltrate South Africa monthly to seek jobs, braving minefields, and electrified fences and South African soldiers.

— Thailand is repatriating asylum-seekers from communist-controlled Laos along parts of its border and closed the Khao I Dang refugee camp because no other nation would accept its population for resettlement.

— Civil war rages in El Salvador, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Nicaragua and South Africa, while the latter also perpetrates cross-border raids into Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Human rights seen as major issue in Turkey's EC bid

By Paul Bolding
Reuter

ANKARA — Doubts about Turkey's commitment to democracy and about its human rights record will play a major role in the debate over its application for European Community (EC) membership, diplomats and politicians say.

Many Turkish intellectuals hope, however, that the prospect of joining, if distant, will itself provide a guarantee for democracy in a country where the military has overturned civilian government three times in 30 years.

Concern centres on Turkish laws that permit trials on political charges like "seeking the supremacy of one class over another," an electoral law seen to favour Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's Motherland Party and on banning orders on thousands of politicians issued after the last coup in 1980.

The 1987 U.S. State Department report on human rights in Turkey notes repeated allegations of torture of detainees, restrictions on trade union rights and repression of the Kurdish language, the native tongue of a fifth of Turkey's population.

"There are many things that are not compatible. A good deal needs to change and probably will

change," said a senior EC diplomat.

Ozal himself came to power in 1983 which were heavily influenced by the military and the envoy said the progress of Turkey's application would depend on what happens after the next elections, due in November 1988 at the latest.

Ozal told EC ambassadors at a meeting to explain the decision to make the application, formally presented in Brussels on April 14, that democracy was already working in Turkey.

Therefore "Turkey needs encouragement in order to further consolidate and strengthen democracy and respect for human rights," he added.

Ugur Mumcu, a columnist on the left-leaning daily Cumhuriyet, was pessimistic about this point. "Unless we are able to achieve democracy in our own right, what good will the EC do?" he wrote.

The liberal Daily Milliyet, in an editorial, approved of the application but listed human rights restrictions that would have to be lifted and said military rule would have to be forgone as a future panacea. "We have a very difficult job ahead of us but we shall have to persevere," it said.

Cumhuriyet launched a campaign last week to highlight the

cases of hundreds of peoples, including defendants in political trials, who are denied possession of a passport to travel abroad.

The main opposition Social Democratic Populist Party also backs the decision to apply for EC membership but says Ozal has not done enough to improve human rights in preparation for the move.

"The government is not well enough prepared in terms of liberties," said spokesman Turker Alkan. "This may lead to reluctance on the part of the EC, but in principle we do not oppose the application."

It is broadly accepted here that Turkey has a right to join the community — even though it is located mostly in Asia and its population is 99 per cent Muslim — not least because it is accepted as a member of NATO.

But the left-leaning weekly Yeni Gündem concluded for its cover story last week after talking to many Turkish intellectuals that: "We are not European."

It cited principally cultural and religious differences and added: "Many people believe that democracy is more a question of tradition and culture than a set of rules."

Turkey, it said, did not meet the minimum democratic requirements for the community



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African smallholders prove their worth

By John Montagu

LONDON, England — When Zimbabwe attained majority rule, there were dire warnings from some British backbench MPs that the post-colonial economy would collapse. But such fears have proved to be unfounded, especially in agriculture, thanks to the startling success of Zimbabwe's peasant farmers.

Mr. Denis Norman, Zimbabwe's Minister of Agriculture from 1980 to 1985, recently told an audience in the House of Commons, London, that there had been a record harvest year in his country, with 55 per cent of the maize crop coming from small-holders. Before 1980, under the white minority administration, small farmers' returns were hardly considered worth recording.

Maize production has increased ten-fold over the past seven years, topping 800,000 tonnes in 1985. Cattle and oilseeds on smallholdings have also shown encouraging results. The total value of peasant agriculture — measured as crops delivered and paid for — rose from 3.7 million Zimbabwean dollars in 1980 to 54 million in 1985.

Zimbabwe's success in stimulating the smallholder sector and destroying the myth of peasants as drought-bound and resistant to change should have enormous repercussions both in Africa and elsewhere. Not least, it could revive the confidence of foreign donor governments and aid agencies in the aftermath of famine.

The evidence shows that Zimbabwean smallholders did not succeed out of any revolutionary fervour, nor in order to please new political masters, but rather

because they received practical encouragement. According to Mr. Norman, price was the greatest motivating force, but there were other incentives such as tax rebates and cheap fertiliser. Systematic back-up by the agricultural lending and marketing agencies — with regular visits by field inspectors — was another important factor.

As another season comes round, the setting of farm prices after a year of surplus will be accompanied by acute heartseaching by economists and officials.

The risk that smallholders who subdivide on communal (formerly Tribal Trust) land will be the first to suffer from lower prices and the lack of storage and grain security during the coming year is an all too familiar cycle in Africa's dry lands.

However, Zimbabwe's food surplus problem may be transformed into a curse for other people's famine. Moving some of Zimbabwe's surpluses into areas of shortage in neighbouring countries, such as Mozambique, could help clear the decks and boost prices. Last November, the Zimbabwean Grain Marketing Board was said to have 2.3 million tonnes of maize in silos and depots, and grain producers themselves have appealed abroad for funds to pay for emergency shipments into Mozambique.

Increasingly, such operations within Africa are receiving encouragement from the European Economic Community (EEC). The EEC has its own food mountains to worry about, yet it is trying to persuade its member governments not to add to Africa's problems by dumping its own surpluses in the form of inappropriate or harmful food aid.

Under the EEC's new policy of what is called "triangular" assistance, European funding has been used to finance the transfer of food within, rather than into Africa, and Zimbabwe has been one of the beneficiaries.

"What we need is not food aid, but aid to grow food," said Mr. Norman. Aid to agriculture — and especially to small holders — will remain an important priority for a government which believes that agriculture has been often overlooked.

The need for "aid to grow food" applies to other drought-prone regions of Africa, including the Sahel belt, where a proper balance between food aid and development aid for agriculture is crucial to the subsistence farmer. It is not an easy balance to obtain. Frequently, the arrival of food aid too late has been a poor and even crippling substitute for financial assistance, because of the damage it does to local grain markets and farmers.

In contrast, governments and international aid agencies have recently been looking to the voluntary sector for effective ways of supporting subsistence farmers. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have scored successes by working closely with local farmers' associations and village groups, effectively creating a parallel structure of development.

An interesting example is found among the Naam village groups of the arid Yatenga region of Burkina Faso, which have received backing from the British agencies Christian Aid and Oxfam. The Naam groups trace their roots back to the old Burkina Faso tradition of post-harvest sharing. They were revived in the late

A growing number of governments in Africa are realising that they must work at the level of the majority of the people whom they are meant to serve, with or without the help of the voluntary sector. Here they could learn a lot from the experience in Zimbabwe, where small-holders have been given the recognition and support they deserve — Earthscan feature.

Earth's centre is hotter than sun's surface

By Lee Siegel
The Associated Press

PASADENA, California — The centre of the earth is hotter than the sun's surface, with temperatures thousands of degrees higher than once thought, say scientists who used diamonds and guns to grow, the produce helping to repay a six-year loan for tools, seeds and materials.

One group of 27 members has transformed a one-hectare plot at Sillia from desert into individual gardens. The plot is fenced and watered from hand-dug wells. Dry-season crops and vegetables are grown, the produce helping to repay a six-year loan for tools, seeds and materials.

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At research centres in Japan and the United States, hundreds of scientists and engineers each day push the "high end" of computer technology, in a race to build the fastest and smartest machines.

"It's a scientific revolution. . .

There's a lot at stake. And the Japanese are very tough competitors," says Joseph F. Traub, who runs the national supercomputer centre in Princeton.

The military uses of both

appear boundless. Supercomputers are now used to design nuclear weapons and jet fighters, and to crack intelligence codes and advise commanders how to deploy naval vessels.

Computers with artificial intelligence could direct robot tanks or take electronic command of President Ronald Reagan's proposed Star Wars missile defence.

The two fields are merging in some ways.

Supercomputers have been

based on traditional step-by-step computation, through a single powerful central processing unit.

They grow faster through advances in miniaturisation — more electronic circuits are jammed into the same area.

Success means dominance of

global information industries, and that means world economic leadership in the coming decades.

American industrial competitiveness may be on the line. But a more tangible goal seems to inspire the U.S. effort: To keep several steps ahead of the Soviets in developing futuristic "smart" weapons.

Except for space, "it is more

important that the United States

retain world leadership in this

area than in any other," said Don Fuqua, the recently retired chairman of the House of Representatives' science and technology committee.

The U.S. and Japanese re-

search concentrates on two areas:

— Stepping up the speed and

developing new applications for

the ultra-fast supercomputers.

— Designing "artificial intelli-

gence" systems, computers that

grasp and solve problems with

human efficiency.

The immense calculating power

of supercomputers, which now

cost up to \$20 million each,

is used by meteorologists to swiftly

predict weather, by oilmen to

draw up intricate geological

maps, by chemists to test molecular

combinations in the search for

new drugs.

Machines with artificial intelli-

gence, on the other hand, can

recognise images, understand hu-

man speech and provide expert

advice in areas ranging from

medical diagnosis to factory

maintenance.

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Mikkola wins Safari Rally

NAIROBI (R) — Hannu Mikkola won Kenya's Safari Rally in an Audi 200 Quattro Monday, ending his 15-year wait for a second triumph in the 4,000-km world championship event.

The Audi works team, which skipped last year's Safari Rally, had the added satisfaction of seeing Mikkola's teammate Walter Röhr of West Germany take second place in an identical 200 Quattro, 17 minutes behind the leader.

After the finish in Nairobi, Mikkola said the most worrying moment was when the air intake on his turbocharger fell off on Saturday in the Central Rift Valley.

"We changed everything but then the engine didn't start... We

lost 30 minutes and were pretty upset for a while," the Finnish driver said.

Mikkola went off the road only once, when a sudden cloudburst near Lake Victoria sent his car skidding off into the bushes on the side of the muddy track.

At that stage he was fighting for first place with title-holder Björn Waldegård of Sweden, who dropped out Sunday when his Toyota Supra developed engine trouble in the Taita Hills south east of Nairobi.

Swede Kenneth Eriksson in a

Volkswagen Golf GTI took up the challenge for the lead but ground to a halt Sunday night with clutch failure on the final run into Nairobi.

Waldegård's teammate, Lars Erik Torp of Sweden, "salvaged" the reputation of Toyota's powerful three-litre Supras, clinching third place 34 minutes behind the second Audi despite suffering from a high fever for the first two days of the event.

This year's event was a radical departure from previous rallies after the international Motor Sports Federation (FISA) excluded the highly specialised Group B cars and limited the event to vehicles which closely resemble standard models.

Mikkola said the change made

the rally more of a challenge. "Now you have to make the best of what you have... With the Group B cars you could plan what you need," he said.

The organisers noted that the Finn's Audi Quattro was the first four-wheel drive vehicle to win the competition which began in 1953.

Experts had predicted that the four-wheel drives would fare well only if conditions were wet. Most of the course stayed unexpectedly dry and dusty.

The course this year took the 53 entrants north around Mount Kenya, through the northern Samburu district, west to the shores of Lake Victoria and then south east to within 100 km of the Indian Ocean port of Mombasa.

Graf wins WITA final

AMELIA ISLAND, Fla (R) — Seventeen-year old Steffi Graf won her fourth straight title of 1987 when she beat Hana Mandlikova 6-3, 6-4 in the final of the Women's International Tennis Association Championships.

The top-seeded Graf did not lose a single set in this \$300,000 event and extended her 1987 unbeaten streak to 22 matches. The number two ranked player in the world earned \$40,000 for her victory.

Mandlikova, the second-seeded Czechoslovak, collected \$18,000 as runner-up.

Graf started strong as she jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the first set. But Mandlikova broke the West German teenager twice to climb back to 4-3.

"I felt pretty good at 4-3 in the first set," Graf said. "Because of her serve, I always felt I had a chance to break her back." Mandlikova's usually strong serve was not in evidence Sunday.

Two double-faults, one at break point, cost Mandlikova her serve in the next game and Graf served out the set at love as the Czechoslovak hit a forehand long.

The trend reversed in the second set as Mandlikova took the early 3-0 lead. But double-faults again came back to haunt the 25-year old second seed and Graf leveled the score at 4-4 after surviving three break points in London (R) — Briton Lloyd Honeyghan's destructive powers

were seen at their best against Curry and Bumphus but the tall, stylish Blocker proved an altogether tougher opponent in his 12-round challenge for the World Boxing Council (WBC) and IBF titles.

Honeyghan destroyed Don Curry in winning the undisputed world title last September and then swept aside another American, the International Boxing Federation's (IBF) challenger Johnny Bumphus, in two rounds in London in February.

He relinquished the World

Boxing Association (WBA)

on political grounds when he made it clear he did not want to fight white South African con-

testor Harold Volbrecht who was subsequently beaten by American Mark Breland for the vacant title.

Honeyghan's power and

Kuwait dismisses 5th foreign coach

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait, with an eye on the Olympic finals in Seoul next year, has dismissed the fifth foreign coach to lose his job with five years.

"The Kuwait Football Association (KFA) Sunday decided to terminate the contract of the national team Manager Gyorgy Mezey three months before the contract expired," the Kuwait News Agency KUNA said in a brief report.

It gave no reason for dropping Mezey, who guided Hungary to last year's World Cup finals, and KFA officials could not be reached for comment.

The report said Kuwaiti coach, Saleh Zacharia, who became

Iraq scraps five state economic organisations

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council Monday scrapped five state economic bodies as part of a campaign by President Saddam Hussein to cut red tape and wasteful expenditure by government.

An official decree named them as the State trading organisations for productive commodities, consumable commodities, grain and food products, exports and imports.

It said that all the economic and trade bodies previously attached to the five organisations would be transferred to the trade ministry.

President Hussein launched his drive early this year in an apparent attempt to reduce the cost of government and save money for the war effort against Iran.

Economic analysts said they expected that measures to abolish state organisations in other ministries would be announced soon.

Gibraltar attracts business

GIBRALTAR (AP) — Two years ago Spain reopened the gate that had cut off Gibraltar from the rest of Europe for 15 years. Now, business in the British colony is booming and the future looks as solid as the monumental rock.

Gibraltar's economic foundation, port services and duty-free sales have seen modest gains but banking is where the big money is.

Six new banks have received licences to open offices since last autumn, bringing the total number of foreign banks to 16. With two other licence applications in the works the number would reach 18, a 50 per cent increase in the 6.5-square-kilometres colony.

More international banks are expected, making Gibraltar one of the fastest-growing new offshore banking centres in the world.

Bank deposits at the end of last year reached £317 million (equivalent at the time to about \$470 million), up from £168 million in 1984. Officials predict total deposits by the end of this year could be twice as much as in 1986.

Still, Gibraltar is small change compared to older banking centres like the Cayman Islands and the Channel Islands.

Banks are drawn to the rock by local laws that attract foreign depositors, including an absence of exchange controls and strict banking secrecy. Banks keep red tape at a minimum and service fees low, hoping to attract wealthy foreign investors who frequent Spain's neighbouring Costa Del Sol.

English is the language of banking in Gibraltar, which makes doing business there attractive to the many older British citizens who have retired to the Spanish coast.

In addition, between 90 and 100 offshore companies are registered in Gibraltar each day, most of these by individuals who use the companies to purchase property, according to a Gibraltar banker who requested anonymity.

The foundation for the offshore activities was laid in 1967, when the government allowed nonresidents to set up tax-exempt companies for offshore business or simply as a tax screen to hold property and assets abroad.

Gibraltar's banks handle transactions for many of these companies. Mr. Salim Manji, chief manager of the Bank of Credit

and Commerce in Gibraltar, travels weekly to the Spain's Costa Del Sol to court wealthy retirees.

"If someone tells you that things are not looking up here, he's asleep," said Mr. Manji, one of an estimated 6,000 Britons living in Gibraltar. "I'd wouldn't be surprised if we see 50 banks here within the next five to 10 years."

Before Spain opened the frontier, Mr. Manji would have had to travel to the Spanish coast via flights through Morocco, Portugal or London. Now he drives the distance in two hours.

In 1969 Spanish dictator, Gen. Francisco Franco, cut off land and ferry links between Gibraltar and the Spanish mainland. During the 16-year blockade, developments were slow.

In 1963, Gibraltar passed the laws protecting depositors and in 1985, when the border opened, the boom began.

Spain was welcomed to the European Community and membership brought new investment to Spain and neighbour Portugal.

The new enterprises that might once have looked to Hong Kong or South Africa for financial service have started looking to Gibraltar as a more politically stable economic haven.

Besides the growing pool of potential clients, banks are attracted by Gibraltar's low tax demands.

Although Mr. Manji's Bank of Credit and Commerce pays Gibraltar's standard 35 per cent corporate tax, many of the newcomers holding offshore licences pay a flat £225 (\$350) annual fee. These banks include Republic National Bank of New York, Credit Suisse, Banco De Bilbao (Gibraltar) Ltd. and Banco Central, Spain's biggest bank.

Meanwhile, negotiations continue between Britain and Spain over the future of Gibraltar, which was ceded by Spain to Britain in 1713.

Following a November 1984 agreement in Brussels, the two nations began discussing sovereignty at periodic meetings, the next one scheduled for June.

Despite frustration over slow progress between Spain and Britain over Gibraltar's fate, government leaders predict continued growth in the financial sector. They see the financial boom as one answer to unemployment which hovers around 5.5 per cent on the barren area without agriculture or much industry.

THE Daily Crossword



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS
1. Prevalent
2. Long time
3. Inflame
4. Fragrance
5. Practical
6. old style
15. Leonine
16. Utterance
17. Chance
18. Gulp
19. Ready
20. Belize
22. Rio de
23. Spoke or wheel
25. Pubs
27. Overcomes
32. Lanky
33. Almost
34. Yearn
35. Sage
39. Bush quail
40. Tolerated
41. Caesar's road
42. Antiaircraft
fire
43. N. Mex art
44. Hippodrome
45. Proximate
47. Social
49. Roman emperor
52. Cleopatra's
terminator
53. Pitting
54. Social
55. Consumer
56. A. there
57. London
district
63. Bette Davis
film
65. Safari
66. Torpedo
- vessel
67. Werbe
68. Sicilian
volcano
69. Liability
70. Hullabaloo
DOWN
1. Part of
Hollywood
2. Celeb
3. Poultry
1. Long
time
2. Inflame
3. Fragrance
4. Practical
5. old style
15. Leonine
16. Utterance
17. Chance
18. Gulp
19. Ready
20. Belize
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65. Safari
66. Torpedo
- vessel
67. Werbe
68. Sicilian
volcano
69. Liability
70. Hullabaloo

4. Cupid
5. Consumed
6. — In (concede)
7. Opt
8. Like steak
9. Knives
10. Tax. sp.
11. Choice
12. Stone heap
13. Ancient
Gr. city
14. Free
17. Contradict
21. Grape
24. "Verona non-
Madam"
25. "Madam"
27. Elephant's
offspring
28. Part of a
drachma
29. On occasion
30. William Penn
31. Go fast
32. Cut in the
meat
33. Silver
34. Tense
44. Put on
45. Aura
48. Cravat
49. Speed
50. Nautical word
51. Goddess turned
to stone
52. Mop: var.
53. Orient
54. Exchange
premium
55. Peddie
56. Therefore
57. Cleft book
58. Premium
59. Peddie
60. Therefore
61. Cleft book
62. One's river
to stone
63. Cleft

Lebanon sinks into economic despair

BEIRUT — The almost total collapse of Lebanese lira (L.L.) is a near-perfect index of the country's misery 12 years after the outbreak of the civil war. The pound depreciated 380 per cent in the past year against the dollar, reflecting almost total despair among Lebanese at prospects of an early end to hostilities.

Even the Syrians who brought relative calm to west Beirut failed to restore confidence in the battered local currency. The pound appreciated briefly in February before sinking back to its end-March level of more than L.L.100 to the dollar.

The Lebanese pound's rapid depreciation has helped fuel an alarming surge in prices, which rose more than 100 per cent last year, according to some estimates. Lebanon depends on imports for 80 per cent of its food-stuffs.

The inflationary spiral is playing havoc with businesses, household budgets and the government's ability to protect the living standards of citizens.

An informal indexation is operating in Lebanon but there is no formal mechanism to provide a cushion against inflation's worst ravages. A recent 40 per cent pay increase for government workers made little impact on the problem, converted them long ago to foreign currencies.

People complain that fruit and vegetables are 10 times more expensive than they were a year

ago. A staple item such as lentils has rocketed from L.L.5 per kilogramme to L.L.82 a kilogramme in a year.

The middle class is selling land, cars, furniture and jewellery in an effort to survive. Basic health care is proving beyond the means of many Lebanese. A rudimentary government health insurance programme pays just L.L.400 (\$4) towards an operation which is likely to cost hundreds of dollars.

The pound crisis has led to an increase in robberies and muggings. A woman from west Beirut said there were even cases of food muggings by people desperate to feed their families.

Lebanese, who have managed to survive years of turmoil, are finding the economic crisis a bitter experience. Many, including members of a once well-to-do middle class, are living below the poverty line. There are reports of well-dressed Lebanese "scavenging in refuse dumps for scraps of food before dawn so they will not be seen by friends and neighbours."

The government is part-financing the deficit by sharply increasing the ratio of deposits banks are required to hold in treasury bills, squeezing liquidity in the process. Statutory impositions on the banking system are expected to finance two-thirds of the deficit this year.

Lebanon's beleaguered central bank is widely criticised for its failure to halve the slide in the value of the pound. The bank intervened in the market late last

year, outlaying \$500 million, about half Lebanon's foreign-exchange reserves, in an effort to stop the pound's depreciation. The measure failed.

The extent to which confidence in the pound has collapsed in a relatively short period is illustrated by the fact that when Mr. Amin Gemayel was elected president in 1982 the local currency was still trading at L.L.4.32 to the dollar seven years after civil war broke out.

Lebanon's gold reserves of 9.2 million troy ounces valued at between \$3.5-\$4 billion are shortening up the pound against total collapse. About 60 per cent of the reserves are held at the central bank in west Beirut.

Lebanon's foreign debt totals a modest \$375 million.

Political disagreements are preventing the gold from being converted to interest-bearing foreign currency deposits to help the government through its economic crisis.

Lebanese industry, which forms about 20 per cent of Lebanon's economy, is the one sector to have benefited from the depreciation of the currency. It is highly competitive and this is reflected in its strong export performance in the past year.

Another consequence of the chaos in Lebanon is that little new investment is entering the country. Bankers estimate that \$12-\$16 billion is deposited in Lebanese banks abroad.

Bankers, businessmen and officials in Beirut see little prospect of an improvement in the economy, however, in the absence of a political settlement. Prospects are for increasing budget deficits and further pressure on the pound — Financial Times news feature.

U.S. will keep trade sanctions

on Japanese goods

TOKYO (R) — U.S. trade sanctions against Japan, announced last Friday, will stay in place for the time being, U.S. trade representative, Mr. Clayton Yeutter, said Monday.

ways to boost domestic demand and increase imports from the United States.

According to a foreign ministry spokesman, Mr. Yeutter replied that what was needed now for Japan was action, not words, and said he saw no impression of action being taken over the past year, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng met his Japanese counterpart Mutsuki Kato Monday and pressed Japan to open its markets for U.S. rice, beef and citrus, and elicited a pledge that Japan will join global negotiations over trade in farm products.

Mr. Yeutter is in Japan to attend the bilateral annual Shima Conference, a forum for a general exchange of views between the two nations.

Trade dialogue will continue this week at meetings in central Japan of top trade representatives from the United States, European Community, Japan and Canada.

Indonesia worries about unemployment

JAKARTA (R) — A leading economist has warned of the dangers of rising unemployment in Indonesia as Finance Minister Radin Prawiro said in an interview published Monday business had become sluggish and inefficient.

Mr. Widjojo Nitastro, a former economics minister who was architect of Indonesia's economic recovery in the first decade of President Suharto's rule, said the problem of growing unemployment was now the greatest challenge facing the government which should be tackled without delay.

The drop in world oil prices has hit Indonesia, the only Asian member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), forcing the government to cut back spending, particularly on development projects.

According to official figures, unemployment more than doubled in 1986 from two per cent to 4.68 per cent. But the government did not say how many people were out of work and unemployment is disguised by people returning to their home villages when they lose jobs in the city.

According to the World Bank, at least 35 per cent of Indonesia's estimated workforce of around 80 million are considered what it terms "underemployed."

Indonesia is the world's fifth largest country with a population of 168 million.

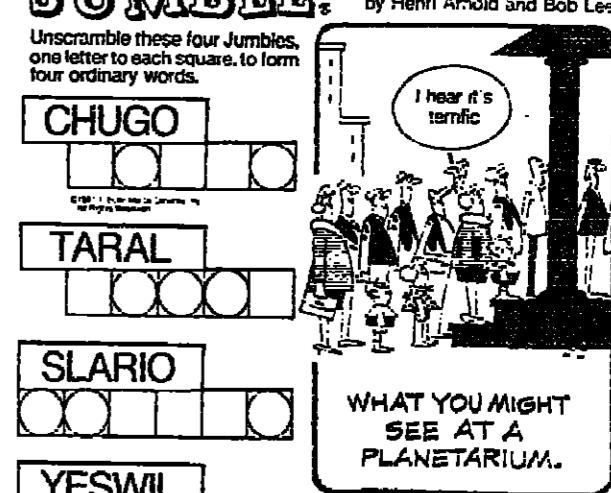
By Harris



"There's no heat in my birdhouse! I wanna speak to the landlord!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: AN

(Answerers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SOGGY TAKEN CENSUS BROGUE

Answer: What you'd expect to have for breakfast at a lighthouse — "BEACON" & EGGS

Horoscope not received

Joe, in 110

Alfonso quells 4-day military rebellion without bloodshed

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine President Raúl Alfonsín has persuaded leaders of an army uprising to end their rebellion without bloodshed, flying by helicopter to a big military base to meet the rebel officers' leader face-to-face.

About 600 rebel officers who had warned they were prepared to fight to the death backed down Sunday after Mr. Alfonsín took a helicopter to their stronghold, the Camp De Mayo military base, and met rebel leader Lieutenant-Colonel Aldo Rico.

His plea for a peaceful end to the rebellion received critical backing from four days of massive civilian street rallies in support of the country's fledgling democracy. Officials said they were a decisive factor in pressing the rebels to back down.

"The mutineers have set aside their attitude ... They will be arrested and tried as befits them," Mr. Alfonsín told 150,000 cheering people in front of Government House after flying back from the base.

"I ask you all to return to your homes, kiss your children and

celebrate Easter in peace," he said. The relieved crowd exploded into wild cheers and shouts of "Argentina, Argentina."

The rebellion, which began at a military base in the central city of Córdoba and spread to Camp De Mayo, Argentina's largest military base, was seen as the most serious challenge to democracy since Mr. Alfonsín took office in 1983 after nearly eight years of military rule.

It was a protest against civilian trials for officers accused of human rights abuses during the military's "dirty war" against left-wing guerrillas and sympathizers in the 1970s. More than 200 officers have been indicted by civilian courts for human rights abuses.

While Mr. Alfonsín visited the base, near Buenos Aires, re-in-

forcements loyal to the civilian government stood outside led by Gen. Ernesto Alais, who had said he was ready to use force to crush the revolt.

The rebel officers were Sunday night in the custody of superiors at the infantry school where they staged the revolt. They said they would surrender their arms Monday, the independent news agency Dianos Y Noticias reported.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Hector Ríos Erenu asked Mr. Alfonsín to allow him to retire, the semi-official news agency Telam reported. Leader of the revolt had demanded the removal of the army leadership starting with Gen. Ríos Erenu, who has earned the bitter resentment of middle- and lower-ranking officers by ordering them to appear in court to answer human rights

charges.

"The people united and in peace helped the president consolidate democracy and solve the military crisis," congressional Deputy Enrique Vanoli of Mr. Alfonsín's ruling Radical Party told reporters.

Argentines have endured six military coups against elected governments since 1930, often with the acquiescence if not the approval of an apathetic public, but citizens who attended the demonstration said things had changed.

"I have been nervous all day — cried a little without knowing what's going to happen to the country. Another coup would mean death," said 54-year-old Martín Vélez, a Buenos Aires office worker.

Adolfo Rodríguez Saa, governor of San Luis province and a leader of the opposition Peronist Party, quoted by the independent news agency Dianos Y Noticias, said: "There will never be another military coup in Argentina. The Argentine people have consolidated democracy."

A police spokesman said about 350,000 people came to the Plaza De Mayo in front of Government House in Buenos Aires at some point during Sunday's all-day rally.

358 arrested in Seoul protests

SEOUL (R) — Police said Monday they were questioning 358 people arrested after riot police Sunday clashed with students marking the anniversary of the 1960 student uprising that overthrew South Korea's first president.

Police sources said most of those in custody, mainly students, were likely to be released soon but about a dozen were expected to face normal charges under laws banning unauthorized protests. These laws carry a maximum penalty of seven years in prison.

On Sunday, thousands of protesters, demanding full democracy and chanting "down with dictatorship," threw rocks at riot police after paying tribute at a memorial to nearly 200 students killed in the 1960 uprising that drove Syngman Rhee from power.

Gandhi denies payoffs in defence deal with Bofors

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, his image as "Mr. Clean" tarnished by newspaper allegations of payoffs in defence deals, told a stormy session of parliament Monday he had been assured no such payments had been made in artillery purchases from a Swedish company.

Opposition members in the lower house hurled charges of bribery and payoffs amid strong protests from members of the ruling Congress (I) Party.

Mr. Gandhi said: "You show us any evidence of corruption or payoff or bribery and we will take action and we will see that nobody however high up is allowed to go free."

The allegations of payoffs first made by a Swedish radio station were widely reported by Indian newspapers. The charges are linked to a \$1.3 billion contract India signed with the Swedish company Bofors to buy artillery.

"We have been assured by the Swedish government and the company that there have been no payoffs. We can't taint everyone with a brush without even knowing what colour we are painting," he said.

Congress (I) said on Saturday that unfriendly countries were making persistent efforts to pre-

vent India from securing improved technology.

Somnath Chatterjee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) told the house: "It is a bid by the government to divert the attention of the country from the issues involved by making all sorts of loud noises about destabilization."

It is a matter of serious concern that one after another serious charges of corruption are being made against the government.

Despite the presidential decision, however, the government party said this weekend it planned to promote greater democracy, including a freer press and the release of some jailed dissidents next month.

Boesak defies South African ban

CAPE TOWN (R) — Anti-apartheid church leader Allan Boesak has begun distribution thousands of car stickers and posters in a show of defiance towards a police ban on campaigning against detention without trial.

The stickers and posters carry a Biblical quotation: "Remember those who are in prison as if you are with them, and those who are being tortured as if you share their body."

Boesak and other church leaders, including Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu, have vowed to defy regulations imposed this month that outlaw any show of solidarity with thousands of people detained without trial under a national state of emergency.

Boesak, president of World Alliance of Reformed Churches and a coloured, as people of mixed race are called here, said members of his congregation had put stickers on their cars and bibles and in their homes.

"We are not just defying the law — as Christians we have no other option but to do what we are doing," he told reporters Sunday.

All the 1,000 posters and 1,000 stickers printed so far have been distributed and Boesak said he had requests for many more.

The passage quoted is from St. Paul's letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 13, Verse Three, and the translation chosen by Boesak is unusual in its explicit reference to "those who are being tortured."

A more widely used English-language version refers at the same point to those who are "suffering" or "suffering greatly."

South Africa said Sunday police and troops will guard railway property from Monday in a bid to stop violence which has marked a bitter strike by black transport workers.

Meanwhile, 12 top South African sportmen Sunday criticised President P. W. Botha's government for slow progress in reforming apartheid and voiced public support for opposition moderates in the May 6 whites-only general election.

Their statements, carried by national newspapers, were another blow to the ruling National Party (NP), still reeling from the defection of prominent members to support independent candidates seeking faster reform of race segregation laws.

The 12 said they backed the so-called Reform Alliance, grouping opposition centrist parties and independents including former Ambassador to Britain

Serving officers involved in Philippine mutiny

MANILA (R) — Serving officers were involved in Saturday's eight-hour mutiny at the Philippine Army Headquarters, a senior officer said Monday.

Brigadier-General Alexander Aguirre, head of the Manila Area Command, told reporters some politicians might also be linked to the uprising at Fort Bonifacio, which he described as part of a bigger plot to destabilise the government.

One soldier died in the mutiny, which was led by ex-Sergeant Ernesto Librado, a cashiered member of former President Ferdinand Marcos's bodyguard.

It was the third outright rebellion by dissident troops during President Corazon Aquino's 14-month rule.

Armed forces Chief General Fidel Ramos said on Saturday most of the mutineers were former soldiers.

"There were officers that were identified after the usual interrogation," Brig. Aguirre said when asked if any officers were involved in the planning of the mutiny.

Right now, Foley said, the Energy Department can meet

Sri Lankan rebels kill 16 in separate attacks

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil separatist guerrillas Monday attacked a Sinhalese village and a security forces camp in Sri Lanka killing 15 civilians and a policeman, officials said.

They said the civilians, five men, five women, four girls and a boy, died when rebels stormed Wan Ela village, 130 kilometers from the eastern city of Trincomalee and opened fire.

The raid on Wan Ela, a Sinhalese colony in Jayanthipura area in the predominantly Sinhalese Polonnaruwa district, was the second attack on civilians in four days.

In the other incident Monday,

rebels attacked a security forces camp at Oddusudan in the northern Mullaitivu district killing a sub-inspector of police and wounding a constable, a government spokesman said.

He said the security men repelled the guerrillas who attacked with rocket-propelled grenades and small arms.

The spokesman said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrilla group was responsible for Monday's attacks as well as for an ambush on Good Friday in which 126 people were killed.

The LTTE has denied it was involved in Friday's attack on three buses and two lorries at Kitiwatta about 30 kilometers from Wan Ela.

The Tigers, in a statement issued in the South Indian city

Madras on Saturday, said the government charges "are unfounded and aimed at tarnishing our image."

The government issued a statement Sunday night saying it had definitely established from intercepted radio communication signals and statements of survivors that the Good Friday massacre was planned and executed by LTTE fighters led by Pullendran, the group's leader in an eastern district.

The government extended indefinitely Monday a 12-hour curfew imposed Sunday night in Trincomalee district to enable troops to continue their hunt for the attackers.

The authorities clamped a 34-hour curfew on Trincomalee on Friday after the ambushers were reported to have fled towards the eastern city. The curfew was lifted for 12 hours Sunday to enable Christians to go to church for Easter Sunday services.

The government said that with permission from the police relatives could bury the victims of Friday's massacre on Monday despite the curfew and families would be provided financial assistance for burials.

President Junius Jayewardene warned on Saturday he would be compelled to seek a military solution to the Tamil rebellion if the Tigers and other Tamil groups rejected India's efforts to find a negotiated settlement to the conflict.

Reactor problems in U.S. threaten warhead production

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — The United States may have difficulty arming and maintaining nuclear weapons because safety problems have shut or scaled back operations at five reactors that produce plutonium and tritium, officials say.

"In any given year, some of the material comes from ... (old) weapons, some of the material comes from new production, some of it comes from the stockpile that we have," said Foley, assistant secretary for defence procurement.

Sylvester Foley, the U.S. Department of Energy official in charge of production since 1985, acknowledged there could be "a problem of increasing dimensions" with safety shutdowns at the reactors, the Charlotte Observer reported Sunday.

The output of three reactors at the Savannah River plant near Aiken, South Carolina, has been cut back 50 per cent and a fourth reactor has been shut since 1985 for yet-unsolved safety problems. Officials had planned to operate the reactors at full output this year, according to an Energy Department document.

The N reactor at the Hanford plant in Washington state was closed in January for safety modifications because its design is similar to one proven dangerous in the Soviet Union's Chernobyl nuclear accident.

Right now, Foley said, the Energy Department can meet

Government blamed for Karachi riots

KARACHI (R) — Opposition politicians in Pakistan have blamed President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq's government for ethnic rioting in the country's biggest city Karachi where seven people have died in the past two days.

The riot erupted on Saturday night, when Pashtuns, from north west Pakistan and Afghanistan who live in the Surjani town district, attacked the nearby suburb of New Karachi, home for Mohajir migrants from former British India at the time of its partition in 1947.

The two communities have a long history of rivalry and at least 200 people have died in violent fighting between them in the past six months.

The latest clashes flared as Mohajirs demanded removal of Pashtuns from Surjani town, saying they had illegally occupied houses and land there after their homes in the former drug- and arms-smuggling centre of Sohrab Goth were bulldozed in a controversial army operation last December.

At least seven people died in the fighting and more than 50 were wounded, mostly by gunfire, doctors said. Fire-fighters said 28 houses and four vehicles were set ablaze.

Gen. Zia has rejected demands for a new poll until 1990, when the present parliament, elected in party-less polls in 1985, completes its five-year term.

He told parliament Sunday night the government would take the necessary steps to improve law and order, without referring directly to the Karachi riots.

Professor Ghafur Ahmad, deputy head of the right-wing Jamaat-I-Islami Party, and Miraj Mohammad Khan, leader of the left-wing Qaumi Muhamadi Azadi group, also criticised the government's role in maintaining law and order.

Fateh Ali Khan, chief of the left-wing Mardan Kissa Party, warned the government that the riots could engulf the whole country.

PEKING (R) — Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping has said that he was free of disease — and that smoking may have helped him stay in good health.

"The doctors are disappointed whenever they check my health," the 82-year-old Deng has said in a jocular exchange at the start of a meeting with former British Prime Minister Edward Heath. "The doctors have discovered no diseases such as cancer," he said. Mr. Heath said he understood Mr. Deng did not work more than six hours a day but the Chinese leader corrected him, saying his aim was to work no more than two hours a day. Mr. Heath asked whether he had given up smoking but Mr. Deng laughingly lit one of his favourite Panda brand cigarettes and said: "Perhaps I am so healthy because of smoking. That is what (wartime British Prime Minister Winston) Churchill always said," rejoined Mr. Heath, a regular visitor to Peking who was here to conduct China's Central Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra at a charity concert. Mr. Deng also said he had seen too many visitors lately, which had kept him busy. His main job now was to give work to other people, he said in a reference to his policy of delegating more responsibility to younger associates.

Tiny ocean plants may influence climate

NEW YORK (AP) — Tiny ocean plants may help maintain a "planetary thermostat" by influencing clouds above them to affect climate, scientists say. The plants, called phytoplankton, excrete a gas that affects the ability of clouds to reflect the sun's rays, they said. In turn, that influences the amount of heat and sunlight that reaches the plants, and so affects the amount of gas produced, forming a feedback mechanism, they said.

China bans individual gold panning

PEKING (AP) — China has banned individual gold panning and processing because of a widespread smuggling problem, the official China Daily has said. The report said the Metallurgical Industry Ministry issued a provision stating that privately owned ore processing plants must shut down and that individuals are no longer allowed to mine gold from streams and rivers. The only exceptions will be "organised individuals" mining in designated places with all the ore being processed in state or collectively run plants. The daily said that since 1978, when private gold mining was first allowed, some 200,000 people have become prospectors. It said, however, that only 1 per cent of what they mine is sold to the state. The rest goes to smugglers who offer higher prices. The daily quoted an official of the China Gold Company as saying 200,000 ounces (5,660 kilograms) of gold a year are lost to the national treasury as a result of smuggling. Individual miners, who account for less than 5 per cent of total production, are also causing serious pollution problems, the report said. Many individual workshops emit poisonous gases from the cyanide and mercury used in gold processing. The government never releases figures on China's gold production, but says output has been rising at an average rate of 10 per cent a year since 1980, making China one of the world's major producers. The Ministry of Geology and Mineral Resources said earlier this year that China has the world's fifth largest gold reserves after South Africa, the Soviet Union, the United States and Canada.

Top-level talks rescue antique train

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's visit to Moscow two weeks ago may yield a bonus for British train-lovers — a vintage steam engine. Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe was able to persuade his Soviet counterpart, Edward Shevardnadze, to consider shipping one of the Soviet Union's fabled P36 locomotives to Britain for museum display, said train buff Robert Adley, a lawmaker for Mrs. Thatcher's Conservative Party. Adley said Friday he had asked Howe to look into the possibility of rescuing one of the engines, which are being broken up for scrap after 40 years of hauling express trains. "Sir Geoffrey told me he was able to raise the issue and asked that the Russians might sell or donate one of these engines to Britain," Adley said.